

PANORAMA

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF U.F.O.P.I.A.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION. AUSTRALIA.
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P 14



EDITOR. FRED.P. STONE

SUB EDITORS. A. BEAN & R. CHESTER.

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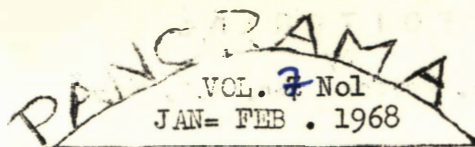
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THE MAGAZINE WITH THE WIDE HORIZON .

SPECIAL NOTICES. TO READERS ETC.

DUE TO RECENT POSTAL INCREASES AND ALSO THE RATES OF VARIOUS EXCHANGES BEING VARIED AS A RESULT OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY DIFFERENCES. WE DESIRE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF OUR READERS AND SUBSCRIBERS ESPECIALLY THOSE OVERSEAS TO VERY NECESSARY DETAILS IN MAILING US VARIOUS FORMS OF MONEY FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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THE EDITOR.

..... ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1963

The following Officers for UFOPIA have been elected at the Annual meeting in January. as follows.

PRESIDENT AND GEN SECT. FRED P. STONE. VICE PRESIDENTS. MR.V. GEDIC
AND MR. A.E. BRAN .
SECRETARY. MR. R. CHESTER . TREASURER. MR F.B. JAMES. RECORDS, MRS P. JAMES.
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..... PANORAMA OFFICERS.

EDITOR. MR FRED STONE. SUBEDITORS. MR. A.E. BRAN AND MR. R. CHESTER.

..... EXTRA NOTICE.

SINCE THE ABOVE NOTICE WAS FORMED ANOTHER ORGANISATION BEARING A VERY SIMILAR TITLE TO OUR OWN OF U.F.O.P.I.A. has been formed. here in South Australia. It is another break away group from the above A.F.S.R.S. its title is Unidentified Phenomena Investigation Association. and uses the shortened U.P.I.A. as its Code name. It will easily be seen that the two names are very easily confused. Our readers are therefor advised as above re mailing.

EDITORIAL

by

Sub. Editor Mr. A.E. Bran

***** COUNTDOWN 68 Part 3 *****

It's here at last, this enigmatical year of 1968!

Much has been forecast of the wondrous and possible earth shattering propensities of this coming year. My previous two articles on this theme have played a small part in awakening my readers to a few of the events in the past year or so which tend to strengthen my own beliefs in the subject, and I am sure, have a direct bearing on the whole matter.

On this sunny January morning I sit reflectively in my office, and gaze out the window at the gloriously blue sky, with wisps of white cloud drifting unhurriedly by. The hills bask in the warm sun, bees hum contentedly as they go about their business of collecting pollen, birds twitter among the branches of the trees or sing sweetly to their fellows. In short, a most idyllic reverie and I have a struggle to bring my mind back to the grim reality of what really lies behind this bucolic facade!

The conflict that is currently going on in the minds of men, expresses itself in either violent eruptions against all precepts of dignity, and established custom, by racial violence between those of differing colour and creed, the taking of hallucinatory drugs by the immature to escape "from it all", and the refusal of a vast majority of young people to conform to anything which may be advised by older and sometimes wiser heads!

Let me now relate a few events which have occurred over the past year or so, then I will endeavour to weld them all together and analyse the underlying causes and possible consequence.

1. The war in Vietnam still drags on its soul shattering, and frustrating way. Thousands of allied and enemy servicemen have, and will meet with, agonizing death, fighting for a cause which many of them only partly believe in or have only a limited idea of what it is "all about". Because of indoctrination, and pressure brought to bear by individuals in control of their governments, they meet on the field of conflict and rend each other asunder, enmeshing in their toils countless numbers of innocent men, women and children, horribly maimed or murdered in the glorious cause of War!

This also applies of course to the recent conflict between the Arab countries and Israel, a conflict which is still rumbling in the background and could at any time erupt into further conflagration.

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2. We have read with trepidation of the vast and fanatical "Cultural Revolution" in Red China, of the brutality and fanaticism of the Red Guards, the beating and killing of many innocent people, including the elderly and the very young.

We see with horror, documentary films of tiny tots chanting praises to their God-head Mao-Tse-Tung, brainwashed and indoctrinated before they have had time to develop individualism.

We hear also of China's emergence into the Atomic Arms race, and view the possible repercussions with misgivings.

3. Pre-occupation with sex and all type of erotica is becoming more and more apparent in literature, films, art, and dress.

I do not think even the bitterest of my critics could accuse me of being a prude, in fact I pride myself on quite considerable broadmindedness, yet, I cannot but be extremely perturbed at some modern day trends. Censorship laws in many parts of the world, whilst in some cases tend to be rather archaic in outlook, nevertheless are our only safe-guard against extreme cases of indecency, pornography, and brutality as expressed by unscrupulous purveyors of certain types of literature, in word and picture. Also by various so called "enlightened individuals" who generously load their films and stage epics with blatant sexual overtones, often quite devoid of any aesthetic principles whatever. A deliberate pander to the licentiousness which lies below the surface of any community. Some degenerate type of people who are, unfortunately, often in the public eye, via the stage or screen have been known to advocate that realism should be carried to the extent of performing the sex act in front of their public!

Now I am broadminded to the extreme, but I feel that this is taking things a little too far.

Women's fashions have gone full circle in ten years, from the calf length dresses of the 50's to the miniscule scraps of today. Not forgetting the top-less fad which had a (fortunately) short reign within the past two years. Don't mistake my views, I would be one of the first males to appreciate the sight of a delectable pair of young female limbs displayed to my view. This, however, does not alter the principle of what is right or wrong.

I am not against abbreviated costumes on the beach or in the street providing they are of an acceptable, and artistic design. I believe that the gentle caress of sun and air to ones skin is God given and should be treated with proper deference.

COUNTDOWN 68 Part 3 cont....

4. Last and not least the pollution of our air, land and sea by atomic fallout, weedicides, and insecticides, also our drinking water by misguided do-gooders with the insertion of sodium silicate flouride.

The agricultural poisons and insecticides are necessary to some extent, but the indiscriminate usage of them is beginning to have wide scale effect on certain foods that we eat and are bound to provide hazards to the health of the world populace.

With regards to the use of synthetic flouride compounds on our drinking water I have the utmost horror.

Many of you, will no doubt be already indoctrinated in the use of flouride via the medium of toothpaste etc, having been mislead by glib statements by so called "experts". Some of you, may be now, have cause to question the efficiency of such an expedient.

If you care to look into the origins of the present preoccupation with the use of such a poison, for poison it undoubtedly is, you will find these relevant factors, as follows

Some years ago, around 1952 I think, certain vast Aluminium Corporations in America observed with growing concern the vast deposits of sodium flouride left over after the manufacture of their primary product. These deposits created quite a problem to them in that they had not considered a way in which to commercialise, (their favourite pastime), and so they cast about for ways and means in which to achieve reduction of their by-product and the accumulation of even greater wealth.

After the expenditure of vast sums on research, their chemists found that in certain respects, the poison when used in a liquified form provided benefits with regard to the hardening of tooth enamel in the young human.

They also knew that this self same poison could seriously affect the bone structure of the human body and also other organs, including the stomach and brain. Did this deter them? Oh, no! They immediately clapped their hands with glee and poured millions of dollars into a vast advertising campaign promoting the use of flouride as a dental elixer!

Many prominent citizens and medical people were talked into or otherwise coerced into advertising their public of the benefits in using this dental additive. (Humanicide, I call it!!)

Fortunately, many other authoritative people saw the evils of such a poison being released to the unsuspecting public and protested, resulting in the American Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act being revised, condemning the use of sodium flouride in all medicines and naming it as a restricted poison!

COUNTDOWN 68 Part 3 cont....

However the damage had already been done and thanks to the power of the almighty dollar plus the venality of certain individuals in control of publicity, various communities throughout the world are now using flouride in their water supplies, to the detriment of their peoples health and limb. I will say nothing further about this subject, there are many books and articles which bear me out, and which go far deeper into the question. I suggest that you, my readers, delve deeply into the subject before acquiescing to your governments indiscriminate use of this humanicide.....!!

What is behind all this degenerative material that is being pumped into the human brain and body? Who is directing and engineering these forces that are debilitating the whole moral fibre and health of the human race? Who or what?

Now consider, who is it that has in his control the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?"

Who is it that is diametrically opposed to all that is good and just, and is an inveterate enemy of all forms of Light?

Need I go any further? The Great Adversary, of course!

Shaitan, Satan, or Lucifer, Prince of Darkness, Lord of the Under World, whatever you may call him, is working and has been working, since the dawn of time to the detriment of mans well being, the subjugation of his soul, and damnation of his spiritual evolution.

You may wonder what all this has to do with Ufology, and the main point of my articles. I will tell you. Whether you like it or not, religion plays an integral part in the whole aspect of U.F.O. research. Many U.F.O. researchers will undoubtedly scoff at what I say and dismiss it as not being worth consideration. But there are many more who, I know, hold the same views as myself and are ready to back these views to the limit.

The world is rapidly approaching a period of extreme danger. All the evidence, para-physical and meta-physical, confirms this point. Whether the danger will arise from the earth's collision with another planetary body or from mans infantile playing around with atomic forces, the fact is not yet entirely clear.

The only thing which has been made abundantly obvious to those of us who have inner sight is that the forces of Light and Darkness are locked together in mortal combat, a fight to the finish to determine who is to control the destiny of our planet and the human race who at present inhabit it.

Will the power of Good prevail over the wicked, and eventually guide us to a Brave New World? Or will mans own venality, corruption and brutality play into the hands of the Dark Powers and force his own destruction?

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If Icarus is going to cause the damage which some people say it might, I can only reiterate some of my previous statements in that it will be a blow by the Powers of Light to deal with the ungodly on earth, and that those who are pure in heart will not be harmed, but will be guided to Greener Pastures.

Enough of what is past, let us now look into the future.

I foresee that in the immediate times ahead, great and important events will alter the lives of all of us. A period of stress is indicated for most of the worlds population; this will be brought about not only by the chance of a planetary upset due to outer space cosmic forces such as the advent of Icarus or some other heavenly bodies, but also by economic chaos, and armed conflicts between various nations.

As we approach the Great Climax, the fruition of mans centuries of mismanagement, our betrayal of, or our non-compliance with, the teachings of our Divine Master, will be brought home to us in no uncertain manner.

Do not misunderstand me, it is not my intention to subject my readers to masses of religious trivia, but I must at this point, reiterate a firm belief that Ufology and Christianity are entirely indivisible!

Economically speaking, the world is in for a hard, lean, period. My forecast is that the devaluation of Sterling will be followed before very long by a slump in the value of the dollar, with resultant chaos in the living standards of dependant nations.

The countries who have come to rely heavily on the dollar will then be forced back on to their own resources, millions of wage earners will either have a greatly reduced pay-packet or be thrown out of work. The bitterness thus engendered against the U.S. will be fed by political agitators, until the final outcome could be uprising in many parts of the world. Immense unemployment in the U.S. would create an extensive pool from which the armed forces could draw their personnel.

The Communist bloc meanwhile, would lavish aid on the impoverished countries, thus commanding their support for any overt attack upon the Western powers.

I need say no further about the possible outcome of such a contretemps. You all know of the various conditions both economical and political which prevailed before the last two wars and which were directly responsible for the holocausts!

As the year progresses, climatic conditions around the world will tend to deviate from the norm. Predominately it will be a very dry year, and agriculture will suffer further losses, contributing greatly to the general economic recession.

COUNTDOWN 68 Part 3 cont...

I advise my readers to purchase ample stocks of non-perishable food-stuffs to help them over a possible lean period. By spending more on food stocks and less on material products we will stimulate our economy and at the same time ensure our bodily comfort.

Changes are anticipated, astronomically, to the whole of our solar system. There are strong indications that upon Jupiter being enveloped by an immense cloud of inter-stellar gases and meteoric dust, a gigantic combustion will ensue, causing the planet to turn into another sun, giving us what is known as a "Binary System" or a two sun system!

The effect upon Earth's weather can only be conjecture at the moment, but my guess is that there would be a general temperature rise of approximately 20°-30° Fahrenheit all over the world. A certain percentage of the polar ice would melt causing the seas to rise by a few feet, and the generally dry conditions prevailing would be relieved by generous rainfalls. The humidity would rise perceptibly causing the Earth to be encased in much thicker atmosphere than at present and having much the same effect as a giant green house!

Whilst Jupiter would become our second sun, it would be far smaller than the original and therefore would not change night into day.

At certain times it would appear in the same sky as our sun, and at others (depending on its orbit) will turn our nights into soft warm twilight. Everybody would have to re-orientate themselves but in time the strangeness would wear off and we would become acclimatised to our new environment.

The above process would not take place immediately but would evolve over many months, and would be the means whereby Earth could be rejuvenated after its involvement in the stresses previously mentioned.

In conclusion, I would like to say that such an effect would be the dawn of a New Golden Age upon this planet. The un-Godly will have been eradicated by fire, tempest and bloodshed, and the strong both in heart and faith will at last inherit the Green and verdant Earth bequeathed by God to our Adamic forebears.

END OF PART 3.

U.F.O.

BY FRED G. MEYERS.

Few issues before the public today are more confused and confusing than the controversy over UFOs. On the one hand, ordinary people are being told by professional people that they are "just seeing things." On the other, professional scientists and reporters often seem to forget that the man in the street has a pair of eyes in his face and a sprinkling of horse sense in his head.

The people who see UFOs and the people who "disprove" them simply aren't hearing each other. The problem is compounded by the fact that a good many sightings - I wouldn't care to guess what percentage - can actually be attributed to conventional craft or natural phenomena. It is further compounded by the existence of so-called UFO witnesses who make a religion of their sightings, and with whom many genuine witnesses tend to be lumped together as kooks.

The press does not help matters. Acting chiefly as a rumor-monger, it circulates fantastic "flying saucer" stories one day, only to spread equally fantastic official "explanations" the next. A newspaper reporter does not have time to investigate sightings in great depth, and the scientific community is not doing the job for him.

How do you find the truth in such a situation? I decided to go after it on my own. My eight-month search has led down many a blind alley and through more than one labyrinth of bureaucratic hedging. I have been sceptical and hard-headed toward reports and disclaimers alike. My conclusions are open-ended, arrived at by a continuous and stringent effort to approach the problem philosophically as well as scientifically. This effort is still going on, but I am now fairly certain of two things: first, UFOs do indeed exist, and second, no one - including the United States Air Force - knows what they are, where they come from, or what their purpose is.

People who have seen UFOs are often subjected to unfair treatment at the hands of officials, the press, and the public at large. Many sane men and women suddenly confronted by this phenomenon resolve to keep quiet rather than risk ridicule. Everyone who knows anything about UFOs would be much happier if they would either go away or stay put long enough for us to find out what they are.

The question mark surrounding their appearances represents an important gap in human knowledge. In building for the future we need to know what kind of world we are living in, and our understanding of life on this planet could conceivably be changed by the truth about UFOs, when and if we come to know it.

The following results of my search for this truth are cruelly compressed for lack of space. Further, it is virtually impossible to write a story which keeps changing as it is being written. At press time I have reports that certain key witnesses whom I interviewed 3 months ago are being subjected to outrageous persecution as a result of their sightings. But deadlines make further investigation impossible for the moment.

Let's look first at the four classical hypotheses which have been invented to "explain" UFOs.

1. The Air Force position: All sightings are the result of known, conventional events - including man-made objects, natural phenomena, psychological factors, the "deluded observer" theory, etc. (For the record, I'm convinced that a great many reported sightings are covered by this hypothesis.)

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2. The "secret development" hypothesis, which speculates that UFOs are experimental craft developed by either the USA or the USSR. (So far as I'm concerned, this one can be discounted. No secret could be so well kept for so long. Besides, UFOs have been seen in nearly every country of the world, and recorded sightings long predate the technological age.)

3. The "atmospheric life form" hypothesis, which is the rarest and most fascinating of all. Do there exist, high in the earth's atmosphere, forms of living creatures hitherto unknown to man? (For my money, no. This would be a more fantastic development than men from Mars, and it would hardly fit the machine-like objects described.)

4. The extraterrestrial hypothesis, which many sane and respectable commentators consider the "hardest to punch holes in" and therefore the likeliest explanation. Do UFOs come from superior civilisations alien to earth? (Because this one appeals so strongly to wishful thinking, I am uncomfortable with it. There may be other explanations no one has thought of. But meanwhile this solution remains as plausible as any other. The mere statistical probability that intelligence exists beyond our solar system is overwhelming. Besides, the question is not whether such beings could travel to earth, but whether in fact they are doing it.)

In order to "prove" that UFOs have no real, physical existence, you would have to explain all known sightings under the "Air Force hypothesis." But will all sightings fit this category? Obviously not, as we shall see.

Since 1947 a central Air Force agency has investigated well over 10,000 UFO reports in the United States. At my last count it has failed to identify 646. All cases are in the files of the Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson Field, Dayton, Ohio, the official agency charged with evaluating and explaining "difficult" sightings. (Wherever possible, reports are "explained" on a local basis without being forwarded to Dayton.)

The 646 officially "unidentified" contain "all pertinent data necessary to suggest a valid hypothesis concerning the cause or explanation of the report," but their "description of the object or its motion cannot be correlated with any known object or phenomena." Yet the Air Force maintains there is "no evidence that sightings categorised as unidentified represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge."

How do you reconcile these two convoluted statements? One says UFOs "cannot be correlated with any known ... phenomena," yet the other claims they represent no "technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge." Either this reasoning is specious or there is some "present-day scientific knowledge" that I, for one, have not heard of. To illustrate, let us examine two of the 646 US sightings officially listed as "unidentified".

An egg-shaped object sighted in New Mexico: On April 24, 1964, between 5 and 6 p.m., patrolman Lonnie Zamora was chasing a speeding car in the open country near Socorro, New Mexico, when he saw and heard what he took to be an explosion "in an area where a dynamite shack was known to be located" (quotations refer to an Air Force document). Going to investigate, he discovered in a shallow gully a white, egg-shaped object supported on four "girder-like legs". He had approached to within some 100 feet when the object emitted a roar, spewing "bluish and orange flame", rose about 20 feet in the air, and hovered for a few seconds; during which "there was no

U.F.O. (3)

longer any noise, smoke, nor flames." Then it flew silently away "in a southerly direction following the contour of the gully."

Air Force, civilian, and F.B.I. investigators later found depressions left in the ground by the landing gear and "an apparently burned bush in the area."

It has been suggested that the object was some sort of experimental device developed for a US space probe. But the Air Force says that "all attempts to reach such a conclusion were inconclusive." Further, although the object rose from the ground in what would appear to have been a fairly conventional blast-off, it hovered silently, then flew away silently. If such a technological feat falls within the "range of present-day scientific knowledge," then the discovery of some revolutionary new physical principle has yet to be reported on the front page of the New York Times.

As he approached the gully, Zamora "saw two people in white coveralls very close to the object. One of these persons seemed to turn and look straight at (his) car." As the ground dipped beneath him, he lost sight of the figures, which were no longer in evidence when he topped the final ridge adjacent to the gully.

This much information is contained in the Air Force files. But if we turn to the files of NICAP (National Investigations Committee of Aerial Phenomena) - the oldest and largest civilian agency investigating UFOs - we find a detail the Air Force fails to mention: Zamora estimated these "people in white coveralls" to be $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall, basing his guess on the measured height of a nearby bush simultaneously in view. (The reliability and thoroughness of NICAP's investigative network appear good. They are careful, sceptical, and relentlessly harsh in exposing hoaxes or illusions. Many other sightings of varying credibility include this "humanoid" feature, with reported heights usually ranging from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet.)

The incident at Exeter, New Hampshire. Another case among the 646 "unidentifieds" is on its way to becoming the most famous US sighting of this decade, thanks to John Fuller's book "Incident at Exeter." Early on September 3, 1965, Norman Muscarello was hitch-hiking on Route 150 near Exeter, New Hampshire. There was little traffic, and by 2 a.m. he was walking along the highway between open fields. Silently and without warning, a round "thing" as big as a house, aglow with bright lights, swooped down upon him out of the sky. Hovering, floating, wobbling and yawing, it came so close that he dived into a ditch by the roadside and covered his head for protection.

After it went away, he hailed a car and made for the Exeter Police Station. A sceptical patrolman and Air Force veteran, Eugene Bertrand, drove the panic-stricken young man back out to the site. Seeing nothing unusual, they left the patrol car and walked across a field where some horses were corralled near a stand of trees. The horses began to whinny and kick, Muscarello shouted, and Bertrand saw the object rise up from behind the trees. In Fuller's words, "It came toward them like a leaf fluttering from a tree....The entire area was bathed in brilliant red light." (This "dead leaf effect" is often reported in cases of disk-shaped UFOs.)

The object hovered 100 feet above the field for several minutes while Bertrand and Muscarello watched it from the patrol car. Its lights were too bright to reveal the distinct outline. It seemed to rock back

U.F.O. (4)

and forth on its axis, and a configuration of pulsating red lights around its rim appeared to "dim rapidly" in sequence from right to left.

Bertrand said later the thing "could turn on a dime," defying all known principles of aerodynamics. Just before it moved away to the east another patrolman, David Hunt, arrived in time to see the object and confirm observations by the other men on its appearance and behavior.

Investigating this and other sightings near Exeter over a period of some three months, Fuller found and interviewed nearly 60 witnesses of "average to better than average" intelligence, character, and reliability. And he interviewed many other persons whose testimony he rejected.

An Air Force spokesman with whom I discussed the Exeter case asked: "If it got that close and had so many lights, why couldn't they make out a clearer outline?" I had to admit that if a car rushed at me out of the dark with headlights blazing I wouldn't expect to see its outline very clearly. The same spokesman tried to suggest that Bertrand, Hunt, and Muscarello might have been watching a high altitude refueling operation. I am relieved for these three men that they have each other to verify what they saw. And try as I may, I cannot conceive that it lies wholly within the "range of present-day scientific knowledge."

Now let us look at two 1966 cases from among the more than 10,000 "identified" sightings in the U.S.A.F. files. Both of the following cases have been officially "explained".

The identified "swamp gas" sightings in Michigan: On March 20, 1966, at Dexter, Frank and Ronald Mannor, a farmer and his son, went outdoors to investigate their dogs' sudden yelping and howling. They saw a "football shaped" object fly over their house and hover close to the ground in a nearby swamp. They ran to within 500 yards of the object when its lights brightened, then went out. The men heard a "whistle like the sound of a rifle bullet ricochet," and the "horrible thing" appeared to take off at great speed, passing directly over them "in just an instant." The New York Times reported that "at least 40 persons including 12 policemen" saw similar manifestations in the same swamp later that evening.

The following night, March 21, girls in a women's dormitory at Hillsdale (Michigan) College saw a similar object fly past, swoop down and hover. As the news spread through the building, seventeen girls saw the object fly away to the south and disappear. Half an hour later it returned from the same direction, flew over a garden behind the dormitory, and settled into a weedy depression some 1,500 feet away.

William Van Horn, civil defense director of Hillsdale County, alerted by telephone, rushed to the dormitory. Together with the girls and their housemother, he watched the object hover for several hours.

The Mannors had described an elongated "thing" with a "grayish-yellow" surface "pitted like coral rock" and carrying a light at either end. Van Horn saw only the two lights, which maintained a fixed distance apart as they "rose and fell" reaching heights of "100 to 150 feet." Through his binoculars he perceived a "light haze" forming behind what he assumed to be the structure connecting the lights. Silhouetted against this haze he thought he saw a "convex shape."

The Air Force sent its chief scientific consultant on UFOs - Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University - to investigate these sightings. His official report is a carefully worded, complex argument. After careful study, I am willing to grant the slim possibility that Hynek may be right. But I strongly doubt it.

U.F.O. (5)

First he cites Minnaert, the Dutch astronomer, whose "Nature of Light and Color in the Open Air" is a classic work on natural optical phenomena. According to Minnaert, says Hynek, lights caused by swamp gas "resemble tiny flames sometimes seen right on the ground and sometimes rising and floating above it." But Minnaert actually says: These lights "resemble tiny flames about one-half inch to five inches high and not more than two inches broad. Sometimes they are right on the ground, at other times they float about four inches above it." Why does Hynek cite Minnaert as an authority, yet fail to be specific in his paraphrase of Minnaert's description? Hynek says the "glowing lights over the swamps near Dexter and Hillsdale...appeared to...rise a short distance," This "short distance" was estimated by Van Horn as "100 to 150 feet." Even allowing for the most drastic margin of error, you have a whopping discrepancy between Minnaert's four inches and Van Horn's 150 feet.

Hynek says "no group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamp." Do a farmer and his son fail to qualify as a "group" of witnesses? If so, what about the seventeen coeds at Hillsdale? And what about the farmer's dogs who first sounded the alert? (These animals' behavior provides one of the most authentic touches in the entire "marsh gas" episode - reminiscent of the horses at Exeter and hundreds of similar accounts.) If space permitted, one could poke many more holes in Hynek's "Will-o'-the Wisp" hypothesis.

An 85-mile "Venus chase" from Ravenna, Ohio: Our second "identified" sighting took place shortly after 5 a.m. on April 17. Deputy Dale Spaur of the Portage County Sheriff's Office and Wilbur Neff, a mechanic and part-time deputy, were making rounds in a patrol car several miles south-east of Ravenna, Ohio, when their radio announced that a UFO had been seen leaving Akron, headed in their direction.

Within a few minutes the object appeared from the west at an altitude of about 200 feet. As it approached, the roadside was brightly illuminated, and the light was reflected from the metal parts of a nearby crane. Frightened, the two men fled to their car for cover. When the object passed almost directly overhead they heard a humming sound similar to the whine of high tension power lines. (There were no such lines in the vicinity.)

The object moved eastward down the highway, and the men drove after it, often reaching speeds over 100 miles per hour to keep it in sight.

Several times it disappeared over the horizon, then seemed to wait till they caught up before moving on again.

Spaur later said they were "close, closer than I ever want to be again." Judging from his sketch and description, they were chasing a dome-shaped disk nearly 50 feet in diameter, presumably flat-bottomed, with a curved, antenna-like projection on its "tail" (top rear portion relative to path of travel). The top, or dome, appeared dark and solid, but the bottom was invisible because of a bright cone projecting downward to a point, like a flame of intense white light. Neff said it was too bright to look at.

The two men followed this thing 85 miles to the south-east across the Pennsylvania border to Conway, about 18 miles from Pittsburgh. Near East Palestine, Ohio, Wayne Huston, another officer, overheard their radio conversation, and waited for them on State Route 14. He is reported to have seen the object pass overhead at great speed. Then as the deputies' car passed, he joined the chase.

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The official explanation is that these three men were dashing across the countryside in hot pursuit of the planet Venus. But before we all laugh, I must admit that when I examined this case in the Air Force files, I tended to accept their hypothesis. One factor seemed nearly conclusive. On that morning, in that part of the country, the sky was cloudless. Venus had risen shortly after 3:30 a.m. and, apart from the moon, well into its last quarter, would have been the brightest thing in the sky. Yet, according to the Air Force, neither Spaur nor Neff reported seeing any "star" in the sky.

It is well known that Venus can play pranks which sometimes fool the most experienced observers. Although I was puzzled by the Ravenna object's apparent height above the horizon (which would seem to rule out major distortion from the atmosphere) and apparent path of travel (toward the east, whereas Venus was rising from the east), there was no doubt whatever that Venus was a prominent object in the sky at the time of this sighting. Since Neff and Spaur reported no "star" in the sky, Venus must have been what they saw.

Several days later, I casually mentioned the Ravenna case during a visit to NICAP headquarters in Washington, D.C. I fully expected Dick Hall, the organisation's associate director, to agree that this was clearly a case of unidentified flying planets. But instead, he declared that the Neff - Spaur sighting was one of the strongest and best witnessed cases of 1966.

"But since they didn't see Venus.." I began.

"Is that what the Air Force told you?" he asked incredulously.

"They saw the moon and Venus both, and this thing they were following wasn't anywhere near either of them." Then he enumerated details the Air Force hadn't mentioned: The third patrolman who parked at the intersection and saw the object pass overhead, the way the ground and crane were illuminated as it went over, the humming noise it made.

I determined to check this out myself. Had the two men seen Venus or not? Neff and Spaur were difficult to reach. Huston, the "third man", had quit his job, changed his name, and for the moment dropped out of sight altogether. When at last I reached Neff by telephone, he seemed reluctant to talk. He remembered seeing the moon, but not a star. He couldn't say for sure he hadn't seen one. Neither did he remember whether he reported seeing one. It had been nearly three months.

It took another two weeks to reach Spaur. To my great relief, he was articulate and willing to talk. Yes, he had seen a bright "star" near the moon. (On the eve of the sighting, Venus was in conjunction with the moon.) He saw this "star" long before the object appeared.

When I asked his opinion of the Air Force explanation, he said: "Dead wrong. I may not know the difference between a star and a planet, but I do know the difference between a machine that comes so close you run for cover and a natural object you see every day." He told me that a representative from Project Blue Book came out to Ravenna for a cursory investigation three weeks after the sighting - nearly as long after the official "identification" was released. Thus it would appear that the results of the Air Force investigation were published before the investigation took place.

These four cases do not even nick the surface of the vast available UFO evidence - nor have we had space for more than the most cursory look at them. But they do provide a glimpse, and they are typical

U.F.O. (7)

in that tens of thousands of similar reports are equally well witnessed and documented throughout the civilised world.

These cases raise at least three serious questions: Can we accept the official conclusion that UFO sightings represent no "technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge"? Should not many of the officially "identified" cases be reclassified as "unidentified"? How can innocent persons be protected from anxiety and persecution visited on them as the result of manifestations in the sky?

In other words, I question whether Project Blue Book has been conducting a thoroughly scientific and ethical investigation. Its own scientific adviser, Dr. Hynek, of "marsh gas" fame, appears to have his doubts too. In a recent letter to "Science" magazine he calls on his colleagues to give serious attention to the UFO puzzle. "Scientists of the recent past have dismissed UFO reports as nonsense," he writes. "But now I want their help." He is particularly adept at pointing out that the Air Force cannot claim to have "no evidence" of sightings representing developments unknown to modern science so long as it has unidentified cases in its file.

I have thought all along that Hynek was a good man, if you could get him to speak off the cuff. Now he seems willing to air his cuffs in public, maybe this linen can at last be washed.

Following this news comes the announcement that Project Blue Book has just commissioned the University of Colorado to do a 15-month "independent" study of UFO reports. Astronomers, meteorologists, psychiatrists, and other specialists will explore the question across disciplinary lines in an effort to discover new patterns and formulate answers.

My enthusiasm at this long-awaited disclosure is somewhat dampened by the fact that I can think of no university with stronger Air Force and NASA ties. Perhaps UFOs can get a fair hearing there, but I must add my own impertinent warning to these specialists as they take up their task: It's all very well to build an elaborate psychological theory demonstrating that UFOs aren't really there; but this won't convince a farmer in Iowa that hallucinations set fire to his cornfield.

Reprinted from "Spirit", a magazine for Christian teenagers, dated March, 1967.

Underlining in the above article is ours, and not that of the author.

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" THE HIGHER ONE RISES IN POSITION THE HUMBLER HE SHOULD BE.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN .

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SIGHTINGS - JANUARY 1968

A.E. Bran

January 8 9.50 p.m.

Mr. Kenneth McDonald, 25, of Henley Beach, an Adelaide sea-side suburb, reports that he sighted an object, white in colour, which travelled across the sky from West to East, on this fine and warm evening.

The object which appeared to be about the size of a star or satellite traversed an arc of approximately 30 degrees, then abruptly faded and disappeared. There was a total absence of any sound, and no discernable smoke trails emanated from the craft. No deviations in the crafts course were observed. Duration of sighting - 10 seconds.

January 8 6.20 p.m.

Radio "Ham" Mr. C.G. Sappiatzer, 51 of Hilton, an Adelaide inner suburb, reports that whilst sitting at his radio transmitter idly gazing out of the window and conversing with one of his conferees, his attention was drawn to a dark blue disc shaped object which flashed across the sky at terrific speed. The object which was first seen at an elevation of 30° North, approximated the size of a five cent coin held at arms length. Mr. Sappiatzer also reports that the disc had what appeared to be a dome on its upper surface. After approximately 30 seconds the craft abruptly climbed to an elevation of 60°, diminished in size and finally disappeared.

Mr. Sappiatzer contacted a few of his local friends by radio and asked them to watch for the craft, but the sighting was over before they were fully alerted. Duration - 30 seconds.

January 18 9.00 p.m.

Quorn, South Australia: Two young motor mechanics were travelling back to Quorn on the Hawker Road after attending a job at Leigh Creek, when approximately 12 miles North of Hawker they noticed an orange glow a few hundred yards in front of their vehicle, something like an illuminated road sign.

The mechanics, one aged 30 years and the other 20, who do not wish their names published, stated that the orange light seemed to split in two as they approached, and rising into the air came towards them at cabin height. They had the impression that the lights were attached to a solid black body of approximately 8 feet in width. The "thing" passed close over their heads and disappeared into the night.

There was an absence of any kind of sound or trail. They report also that the night was extremely overcast. I refer to this latter item because it has a direct bearing on my evaluation. Duration - 20 seconds.

January 23 8.45 p.m.

Mr. R. Bewley, 47, of Cheltenham and seven members of his family were "cooling off" in the garden after a rather hot day, when they noted a bright object travelling across the sky. The object, which was approx the size of a ten cent coin kept a steady undeviating course and finally disappeared beyond the horizon. Duration - 5 mins.

S.A. Sightings - January 1968 cont....

Comment

The first and last items on this report can, I feel sure, be accounted for by one simple word, "Satellites". Everything seems to point to this fact.

Mr. Sappiatzer's description of his object, which conforms closely to thousands of previous reports from all over the world, would indicate that if he has not been previously in touch with "saucer" affairs or read any book on the subject, his sighting can be officially recognised, and must be regarded as a classic.

The sighting from Quorn raises a few points which I will endeavour to explain. Not having met the two young men in question to be able to assess their characters or check their veracity, I must formulate my theories from their written information. Let us examine the report in the following way.

- (a) The night was warm and overcast.
- (b) They were travelling on an unlit road in open Country.
- (c) The time was 9.00 p.m. and they were returning home from work after a hot & tiring day.

Any person who has driven a car under like conditions will tell you that many simple things which happen and normally have a rational explanation, can, under conditions of stress or fatigue produce hallucinatory effects which can be very disturbing.

I am not saying that our reporters did not see something which could be classified as an unidentified flying object. I am trying to examine the report in a purely scientific and un-emotional way, thus:-

The twin orange glows approaching their vehicle could possibly be the reflection of their own headlights on a bank of low lying mist or smoke. The blackness, which seemed to extend to both sides of the lights would be an optical effect caused by their brilliance.

The rising of the lights as the vehicle approached would be caused by air pressures built-up in front of the speeding car, and the absence of further visual signs such as tail lights etc would indicate that the smoke or mist was dissipated by the vehicles passage.

If the car's ignition had been affected by the "craft" then I would not hesitate in recognising their sighting as a report of an extra-terrestrial object, as it is, I feel that I must regard it as a mirage, strange and disturbing that it must have been!

SIGHTING REPORTS FROM HERE AND THERE.

NEW SOUTH WALES. JAN. 21st. 1968. (The Sunday Mail)

Sydney. A Glowing unidentified object flashed across N.S.W. country towns and Sydney suburbs on Friday night .

Some hours later, a flashing blue and white object plunged into Cook Strait which separates New Zealand's North and South Islands.

It is not known yet whether the two incidents are related.

At least a dozen people in Sydney and eight in country towns reported sighting the object as it flashed overhead.

Mrs A. Thomas of Maxim St. West Ryde, said she saw the object which was " round and had a long tail"

"Every now and then the tail seemed to erupt into flame" she said. Residents of Killarney Heights, Watson's Bay, Doll's Point, Leichhardt and Green Valley also reported seeing the lights and speeding mystery object. Spokesman for the Woomera Rocket Range, The R.A.A.F. and the Bureau of Meteorology, said yesterday they had no knowledge of any objects launched in Australia which could account for the night's phenomena.

Residents in Wellington.. New Zealand's Capital on the shores of Cook Strait said that an object crashed into the sea and for a long time after, sent out a series of dazzling signals.

They said the sea was too rough to put out a small boat to identify the object. It finally sank in deep water .

Mr.H.F.Kelly whose house overlooks Cook Strait, said the object splashed into the sea near Tapuperanga Island.

" Before it plunged it created an awesome sight with glowing streaks in the sky," he said.

" It looked like a huge , partially deflated balloon. "

Wellington police said yesterday the object was floating for five hours about 1½ miles from the shore.

A spokesman for the N.Z. Weather Bureau said the object described in no way resembled a weather observation balloon.

In orbit above the Earth, there are hundreds of space vehicles launched by the American and Soviet Space Agencies, scientific bodies and military authorities.

Accompanying them is a scrapheap of discarded rocket parts.

Most "dead " space vehicles fall into the ocean , but parts of the man-made satellites have been found in Australia's inland , in Africa and in North America. ...

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Comment. One would be inclined to think the New Zealand object at least could have such a space piece. and probably there could be a connection between the two events. However it does amaze us with the furore that goes on about retrieving such space pieces for examination and identification . that no real effort was made to retrieve the Cook Strait object, especially as it was according to the police report. observed for about 5 hours. and if such a space piece . why did it not disintegrate when it burnt its way through the atmosphere. and remain " floating " for so long. Just a few queries we would like answered.

SIGHTINGS HERE AND THERE. Cont. (1)

WEST AUSTRALIAN SIGHTING.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DEC. 8th 1967.

STRANGE OBJECT SEEN IN THE SKY .

Donnybrook. Thurs. Another sighting has been made of an unidentified flying object, this time at Kirup. a mill township 12 miles south of Donnybrook. The sighting was made by Mr Mervyn Dickson , a forman overseer, on Monday night.

Interviewed at her home today Mrs Dickson said that a little after 9.p.m. the picture on their TV set began to roll and crackle.

As it continued to do so , her husband went outside to see if anything had happened to the aerial.

He was surprised to see a glow and two bright lights ornaed coloured descending through the trees 150 yards from his back door.

He called his wife and they both saw the lights remain stationary for a while and then disappear,.

Mrs Dickson said she and her husband were positive that they saw something but could not distinguish what it was.

In a direct line from their house and the object is a 50,000- gallon water tank around which is a cleared area.

Mr. Dickson said he belived the object landed in this area. of the clearing.

District Forrest Officer J. Mahoney said he had been returning from Bunbury about 9.30 .p.m. As he approached his house about 50 yards from the Dicksons he saw a glow in the trees which he first took for a fire.

When he realised it was not a fire he dismissed it as being the moon and it was not until the next morning that he realised there had been no moon.

It was also found that interference had been common with TV sets in the neighbourhood that night .

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FLYING SAUCER SEEN ON MOUNTAIN AT CAPE TOWN.

Front Page Cape Town News 12/10/67.

An unidentified object was seen by people in Cape Town soon after 11 a.m. today. It appeared to be hovering over Table Mountain in the vicinity of the cable way .

The object seemed to scintillate and shimmer when it caught the rays of the sun and its shape appeared to change. indicating that it was not a balloon or spherical object .

Officials at the Meteorological Office at D.F. Malan said they sent up a weather balloon at 3 a.m. today but they expected that it would have burst long before 11. a.m.

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WEST AUSTRALIA.

MAN AND HIS DOG SEE SAUCER.

" Daily News " Fri. Feb 9th 1968. (Credit Mrs. B. Perkins. Our Observer)

Four year old collie Bob--- and his 21 -year -old master-- sighted an unidentified flying object over a Koorda farm yesterday .

Bob wasn't frightened . he chased it for a hundred yards --- but then he's an avid bird catcher.

His master, Peter Stephens, says he was scared stiff- and neighbours agree his is not a good enough actor to put on the way he acted after the sighting.

Said Const. George Pike, after questioning Mr Stephens: " I think it's dinkum "

Today, still shaken, Mr Stephens re-told the story :

" I was out ploughing in a paddock about 10 a.m. yesterday. when suddenly Bob took off.

" I looked up and saw an orange -red , circular object, moving along 10 to 12 feet above the ground less than 600 yards away .

Its height was about the same as its distance above the ground. It was moving about 25 to 30 m.p.h.

" I couldn't hear if it was making any noise because of the tractor engine. There was a lot of dust and stubble being thrown up underneath it as it was travelling along.

" I couldn't see any flashing lights on it. It didn't seem to have any windows or portholes ."

Mr. Stephens said that he watched it until the object disappeared over the crest of a hill about 300 yards away . Then he unhooked the tractor and ran home to tell his boss, Alf Jones.

At the farmhouse Mr and Mrs . Jones at first would not believe him . Finally they were convinced by his visibly shaken appearance.

Mr. Jones went to the paddock to see if there were any broken fences or telephone wires . There were not.

The " saucer" which was travelling in a south-south-westerly direction , disappeared over neighbour D McQuarrie farm.

Mr Mac Quarrie said he did not see the object, but he recalled an odd occurrence about the same time.

One of the workmen going out to check water points, issued his usual invitation to the MacQuarrie dogs to accompany him. The dogs, normally only too eager to jump into the Land-Rover, would not have a bar of it.

The dogs might have seen the object moving behind the Land-Rover he said.

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ANOTHER SAUCER SIGHTED IN SAME
AREA.

Daily News Feb 15 1968.

MOLLERIN FARMER SAYS HE SAW UFO.

Another U.F.O. sighting has been made. in the Koorda area.

Mollerin farmer and Koorda councillor, Harry King told members at the shire meeting last night , he saw the object Tuesday .

He claimed it looked very much like the object sighted and sketched by Peter Stephens at the Koorda farm last Thursday.

Sightings Here and There cont. West Aust. (2)

The sketch is hanging in the shire offices.

Koorda Shire Clerk Wally Felgate today reported the conversation he had with Mr. King at last night's meeting .

" King said he saw this thing about 4 p.m. while he was working with his white canopied tractor.

" It was about two miles away taking off from a paddock, which belongs to his brother.

He said it made a vertical take off, banked towards him and then travelled in a northerly direction and disappeared over Lake Moore.

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R.A.A.F. SAYS U.F.O. MAY HAVE BEEN AN AIRCRAFT .

An. R.A.A.F spokesman from Pearce, said yesterday that the UFO the Koorda farmer saw could have been an aircraft from the base at Pearce.

He said there had been a low- flying aircraft in the air near Mollerin where Mr. H. King said he saw an object on Tuesday .

Mr . Stephen said his object was orange-red and circular, but Mr. King reported his to be oval and black . a marked difference.

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A FEW QUESTIONS RE THE ABOVE R.A.A.F FINDING.

Since when are aircraft allowed to be flying as low as 10 to 12 feet above the ground.?? . If in trouble why was not this stated in the report ???

Since they were both observed at very close range, since when do aircraft appear to be round or oval. , even a farmer knows the shape of conventional aircraft despite the fact of his isolation from the more populated areas. they are not all as dumb as that surely . and we believe that the above two witnesses appear to be very capable at reporting what they saw.

Aircraft could have been in that area. but surely we are not expected to believe that they are allowed to infringe on the rural population as did the behaviour of the two objects reported above. Well of course the " brass" has said it WAS aircraft or did they. ?? Oh No they hid behind the smoke screen of " may be and could be" as usual leaving them a good way out if needed.

Personally your Editor is very tired after many years of listening to these brain trust children . and what sickens him more is the toadying some groups do to make themselves very respectable by the pseudo scientific claims and chummy with all the high ups. Surely the experience of those who have been plugging for years at this class of academic level should have taught them that you'll get little from them for they either dare not or will not face the truth. for they know they will lose face . position. and their vested interests in their jobs if they do. Despite all the Colorado investigations even Prof. McDonald one of the rare and few who do not fit the above as a scientist. has to admit that so few of them will come out even when they KNOW the truth. Some of us have long ago come to a very clear conclusion WHY. for it fits all the answers. meanwhile we leave the social climbing snarlers to have a go and learn by their own sad experience.

Maybe it will be the only way the egos will be best deflated. Poor little Humpty Dumpty. How great and wise was the old saying of the Master

" Put not your trust in Princes".

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